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Established 1897

Wal-Mart opens 290th store in Gonzales

The 290th Wal-Mart store opened its doors this morning here in Gonzales with an official ribbon cutting ceremony at 8:45 a.m. Cutting the ribbon in the last official act was the reigning Miss Texas, Les Ann Maughay of Houston.

A number of local dignitaries were present at opening and some of those included Mayor Paul Wiley, Kermit Theis, president of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce, and George Sells, president of the First National Bank of Gonzales and others.

1979 was a landmark year for Wal-Mart Stores. After just seventeen years in the retail discount store industry, the company's sales exceeded \$1 billion and its Annual Report on the industry, dated July 7, 1980, cited Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. as the largest general merchandise chain division in the country. Each of the four divisions on which the company's performance is based on the basis of the past five years, Wal-Mart ranked first in a comparison of other retail companies on equity, return on capital, sales per store, and in earnings per

Franklin variety store in Newport, Arkansas, in 1945. One year later, joined by his brother, J.L. "Bud" Walton, now Senior Vice-President, the two brothers began to expand their variety store operations.

Between 1945 and 1962, they assembled a group of fifteen successful Ben Franklin stores which served as the base for what was to become Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Wal-Mart's first Discount City store opened

in Rogers, Arkansas (a town of approximately 6,000), in November, 1962. Today, the company is recognized as a leader in the retail discount industry.

At the close of the fiscal year ended January 31, 1980, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. had 276 discount department stores in operation. Sixty-four stores are located in Missouri, 57 in Arkansas,

1980, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. headquartered in Bentonville, Arkansas, had 276 discount department stores in operation. Sixty-four stores are located in Missouri, 57 in Arkansas,

Texas, 18 in Mississippi, 17 in Tennessee, 16 in Illinois, 10 in Kansas, 7 in Louisiana, 4 in Kentucky, and 1 in Alabama.

During the year, the company had the greatest amount of growth in its seventeen-year history. Forty-seven new Wal-Mart Stores were opened, eight stores expanded, and two stores were relocated and expanded. Approximately forty-eight new stores are scheduled to open during 1980. In addition, construction is underway on a new 510,000 square foot Distribution Center in Palestine, Texas, which is scheduled for completion in late 1980. This will be the company's fifth distribution facility with three others located in Bentonville and one in Searcy, Arkansas.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. unlike many other major discount chains, has devoted itself almost exclusively to serving small business communities and rural areas. With few exceptions, Wal-Mart Discount Cities are the largest non-food retailers in their respective communities. Generally, Wal-Mart's discount department stores range in size from 30,000 to 60,000 square feet of building area, with the average store size being approximately 43,000 square feet.

The company's expansion program is directed toward communities within a 400 mile radius of its General Office and Distribution and warehouse facilities. Wal-Mart stores cover a medium of small towns and region sized cities. Little Rock, Arkansas and Springfield, Missouri are the largest cities in which the company operates, although stores are located close to a few other metropolitan areas

including Tulsa, Oklahoma, Saint Louis, Missouri, Memphis, Tennessee, and Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas.

Sales have shown steady gains, with corporate volume exceeding \$1 billion for the fiscal year ended January 31, 1980 and increase from \$950 million for the fiscal year ended January 31, 1979. The company's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

As the company has grown, so has the number of associates who comprise the Wal-Mart family. Today, the company employs more than 21,000 associates in its eleven-state region.

The company's founder, Sam M. Walton, continues to serve as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Jack Shewmaker is President and Chief Operating Officer.



THE REIGNING Miss Texas, Les Ann Maughay of Houston (left) and Sue Jones, manager of the local Wal-Mart Store, (right) cut the grand opening ribbon, signifying the opening of the 290th Wal-Mart Store during the grand opening ceremonies held this morning at the Gonzales Wal-Mart Store. A number of Wal-Mart and local dignitaries were on hand to take part in the grand opening.

Floyd attends NVATA meeting

John Floyd, vocational agriculture teacher in the Gonzales High School at Gonzales, Texas, attended the NVATA (National Vocational Teachers' Association) Regional Leadership Conference at Springdale, Arkansas on June 23-25, 1980.

He joined 89 agricultural educators (classroom teachers, college-university teacher educators, and state supervisors) representing all states in NVATA Region 2. State vocational agriculture leaders present represented affiliated associations in Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

The three day meeting is sponsored annually by the NVATA to develop professional leadership, years experience with Arkla

leaders with responsibilities related to the national organization, discuss mutual problems facing the NVATA. Agricultural region give direction to the NVATA, and become more knowledgeable about the total programs of vocational education in agriculture. Workshops emphasizing "Techniques and Strategies for Effective Legislative Activities at the State and National Levels" and "National FFA Program Evaluation Discussions" were also conducted during the conference. Wayne Leroy, AVA Representative, Arlington, Virginia, Albert Timmerman, NVATA President, Rockdale, Texas, and Elliott Knowles, National FFA Field Representative, Alexandria, Virginia, attended the Conference and conducted portions of the meetings pertaining to their organizational expertise.

John Floyd was one of 14 agricultural educators representing the state of Texas at the Conference. He is currently serving as Director for the Texas Vocational Agriculture Teachers' Association. During the Conference John Floyd had additional responsibilities. He served as a chairman of the Young Member Committee, a special committee appointed to select a Young Member of the National Voc. Ag Teachers Association of Region 1 the 10 Western States of Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Alaska and Washington.

The meeting was conducted by Robert Tuttle, NVATA Region Vice President, who teaches vocational agriculture at Delta, Colorado. He was assisted by John Sandel, vocational agriculture teacher from Floren.

Arkla to offer home energy audits

Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company customers in five states will be offered an opportunity within the next 12 months to have the energy efficiency of their homes surveyed through a home energy audit.

Arkla expects to mail each residential customer an invitation to participate in a plan which will bring a certified person to the home to estimate energy savings dollars to be accomplished by each conservation measure, but the estimated

yourself conservation practices to the more detailed analysis and recommendation for conservation measures such as additional attic insulation, ventilation, heating and cooling efficiency measures or the addition of storm windows and doors. This report will not only give the home owner estimates in energy savings dollars to be accomplished by each conservation measure, but the estimated

Oklahoma and Kansas. The program, Residential Conservation Service (RCS), will be implemented by Arkla under Title II of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act.

Arkla's program will conform to state RCS plans in each of the five state areas it serves - Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Louisiana.

The Energy Conservation Services Department head Philo J. sociology from the University of Hawaii and has done graduate work in psychology at the University of Texas at El Paso. She has been employed in Arkla's customer accounting department.

Oklahoma-Kansas coordinator, Fred Guy has been serving as Arkla's assistant division engineer in Altus, Okla. A native of Wellington, Kan, and an Army veteran, he has 20 years experience with Arkla

Gonzales Weather

— Fair with hot